

CATHOLICS GOING DOOR TO DOOR

July 12, 2000 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) - For the second year, Roman Catholics in the Washington, D.C. area went door to door during an outreach in late June, “talking about Jesus,” handing out fliers, and inviting people to the Catholic Festival of Faith. This endeavor is in response to the plea by Pope John Paul II for bishops to do something about the loss of Hispanic Catholics to Protestant and Baptist churches.

At Indianapolis '90, a charismatic-ecumenical conference I attended with press credentials, the Roman Catholics (who formed roughly half of the crowd of 25,000) conducted a three-day workshop to train their people in door to door techniques. I observed the worship one afternoon, and they even had a demonstration of how to lead a person to Christ. Some of it sounded fairly scriptural, at least until the end when the man leading the demonstration taught the trainee to pray to Mary!

When I attended a similar conference in St. Louis in July 2000, I asked many Roman Catholic participants the question, “When were you born again?” (These were the charismatic, evangelical Catholics we have heard so much about.) Not one had a scriptural reply. Some did not know what I was talking about. Others pointed to their infant baptism (which is a proper answer according to Catholic dogma). Others pointed to various charismatic experiences they have encountered.

At Indianapolis I asked one Roman Catholic man the previous question, and he told me that he was born again when he received Jesus two years earlier. I asked, “Do you mean that you were a lost sinner on your way to hell before that?” He quickly replied, “No, no. I was confirmed when I was younger and before that I was baptized.” Thus it is obvious that he is trusting both faith and works for his salvation, which is exactly what Rome teaches.

When dealing with Roman Catholics, it is important to ask the right questions and delve into the murky waters of double entendre. False religious groups use biblical terms and adopt scriptural practices, but they give them unbiblical meanings.